

Allendale Middle School PTO Minutes  
Tuesday, November 2, 2010

Present: Rocky Thompson, Sue Gioia, Norine Fox, Amy Brandon, Vicki Apel, Cristy Sauter, Colleen Falstrom, Shelley Sickrey, Paula Mayers

1. Call to Order
  - a. Made at 7:01 PM
2. Secretary's Report
  - a. September and October minutes approved
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Hard copy provided at meeting
  - b. Current balance is \$6,564.44
  - c. A lot more going out than in this month
    - i. Many expenses related to getting the showcases ready throughout the school
  - d. Deposit from the Paper Gator
    - i. We have decided to leave it next to New Options on Lake Michigan Drive as it does make three times the money than other Paper Gators in the area make
  - e. The deposit from QSP is a wrap-up of last year's sales. We should see activity for this year's sales soon
4. Principal's Report
  - a. Rocky Thompson reported that things have been busy for everyone; thanked the PTO for the dinner provided at conferences; there is a job posting for an Administrative Assistant for the Middle School - came from the Central Office as a replacement for the Assistant Principal position; the Wellness Committee met about a week ago and had a conversation regarding the snacks students bring to school and the inappropriateness of such snacks - the County Health committee member would like to see something sent home to parents regarding too much sugar coming to school; the district is going into Strategic Planning for the next three years and they are forming a committee about which more information will be forthcoming - all four of the major issues from the last three-year plan have been addressed; the Lego Robotics team has been doing well, and the student body does not know much about them - the team will have an assembly in December where they can showcase their work; MAP and MEAP testing is done; Brian Sampson, the middle school's "tech guy," is in the military and is currently overseas in harm's way - there was a fundraiser to help his wife, First Grade teacher in Evergreen, Megan Sampson, that raised money to help with her around-the-house/"honey-do" list with enough left over for a manicure - she also received a visit in her classroom from the Middle School Choir who sang a song picked out by Mr. Sampson which brought tears to her eyes; the Middle School Choir sang the National Anthem at the Grand Rapids Griffins hockey game last Friday
5. Counselor's Report
  - a. Norine Fox reported that the Leadership Team and Student Council have been busy; Red Ribbon Week went well - almost 200 students signed the pledge not to do drugs; the Student Council accepted the challenge from Oakwood to collect stuffed animals for the DeVos Children's Hospital - they will send what they can (new animals) to the hospital and donate the rest (used) to women's shelters, Goodwill, Love Inc., etc; the mock election was held today - Rick Snyder (85 votes) defeated Virg Bernero (17 votes); Pink-Out Day t-shirts will go on sale in November to support breast cancer awareness; Spirit Week will be November 15-19, 2010; the 7th & 8th Grade Party went well - some students were at first upset that most of the songs they requested could not be played, but they got over it by about the second dance and they all seemed to have had a good time
6. Teacher's Reports

- a. 6th grade: Norine Fox reported that it feels like the 6th grade team is finally getting into the curriculum now that the MAP and MEAP testing is over; they are spending some time trying to get students organized - they may be rethinking the beginning of next year and transitioning students from 5th grade to 6th grade and the appropriate use of the computers; overall things are going well; working on reading strategies - it is a learning year for the 6th grade team with all of this; Mr. Piccard is still taking students outside for the RAIL project
  - b. 7th grade: Vicki Apel reported that the 7th grade team is also feeling that they finally get to teach now that the MAP and MEAP testing is over; this marking period is almost over; they are doing a lot of cross-curricular work; things are going well
  - c. 8th grade: Sue Gioia reported that she (History) is working with Lindsey Davies (English) on cross-curricular assignments incorporating the Revolutionary War unit through lit circles and history assignments
  - d. Exploratories: Sue Gioia reported that the Spanish and Art classes had a Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration in their hours yesterday.
7. Committees
- a. Staff Appreciation Luncheon: all teachers and staff present extended their thanks to the PTO for the luncheon; the food was from Great Lakes Chinese; Megan Zickus was the committee chair and she did a great job
  - b. 6th Grade Fall Party: will be a roller-skating party held Thursday, November 4 at Terry Hall; the busses have been lined up and will leave the middle school at 3:00 PM; we have a lot of volunteers; food and water has been donated; we can still take any 6th grade student who wants to go as long as they have a signed permission slip; we wanted to try something a little different this year than the standard Halloween party
  - c. Showcases: we have a good start on the Music showcase, but is a work in progress; the trophy showcase and Science Olympiad showcase is about done - would love to have a current picture for the Science Olympiad showcase; we put felt behind the flags; we are still working on the grade level showcases and would love to hear any suggestions - some of our thoughts were to have half of the case be academic and the other half activities featuring photos of students engaging in their activities - could be almost anything they are interested in doing; we are glad to help with any of the showcases but do not want to take over anything for which you already had plans
8. New Business
- a. Keith Piccard: Net for RAIL Project (\$75)
    - i. Keith sent in a proposal for a new Twin Pull Aquatics Kick Net, and because it is only \$75 we can vote tonight
    - ii. Proposal approved
  - b. Maria Huistra: Sports Equipment for Middle School Playground
    - i. Maria sent in a proposal for new footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, etc. for the students to use during their lunch recess time as the current equipment has leaks and holes
    - ii. Last year we granted \$125
    - iii. Vicki Apel moved to grant \$150 this year
      1. Proposal approved for \$150
    - iv. We will contact Scott Walstra regarding the best equipment to get
9. Old Business
- a. 6th Grade Book Publishing (\$333.45)
    - i. Norine Fox submitted a proposal last month asking for funds for the publishing costs of the stories created by her 6th graders
    - ii. Proposal approved
  - b. Theatre Troupe

- i. Vicki Apel reported that the Troupe had not yet gotten back with her, and that she will follow-up with them; she hopes to have a proposal by the December PTO meeting
    - c. Allendale Boosters & Parent Organizations (ABPO)
      - i. Our committee has been strongly encouraged to join this group in order to be part of the 501(c)(3)
      - ii. If our group does not join, we cannot use the "Allendale" name in our organization
      - iii. As a 501(c)(3), we will be able to make tax-free purchases, however, we will also need to pay sales tax on goods that we deliver, but our magazine sale should not be effected
      - iv. Resolutions read aloud by Cristy Sauter
      - v. Proposal to join the ABPO approved and Resolutions adopted
    - d. QSP Magazine Sale
      - i. The postcard booklets and invoices should be received this week
      - ii. The limo ride is still being coordinated - 11 students will be able to participate
      - iii. We anticipate, based on gross sales, that we are up from last year
- 10. Questions from the Floor
  - a. None

Door prize winner was Norine Fox. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley Sickrey  
PTO Secretary